

THE WIDE-AWAKE CIRCLE

Boys' and Girls' Department.

Rules for Young Writers.
1—Write plainly on one side of the paper only, and number the pages.
2—Use pen and ink, not pencil.
3—Short and pointed articles will be given preference. Do not use over 250 words.
4—Original stories or letters only will be used.
5—Write your name, age and address plainly at the bottom of the story.

WIDE-AWAKE POETRY.

THE LOST CHILD.

It was a winsome, little child
Came skipping down the street,
With sunny hair, wind-blown and wild,
And dancing little feet.

"Where little child are you?" I asked,
She looked at me and smiled,
"Why, I don't know, I hardly guess
I'm anybody's child."

She kissed me on the cheek and laughed,
"Come run away and play!"
Then skipping on called blithely back,
"I'll be your child today."

I saw her slip behind the hedge
With tears I could not hide,
"Oh, merry, fairy little girl,
You are my child!" I cried.

I'm sure some little children-souls,
A wander in the sky,
Get lost in hunting for their homes
And pass their mothers by.

Sometimes they come to careless arms
That grudge to let them stay,
And leave quite empty mother hearts
That want them night and day.

—Mary Stewart in Good Housekeeping.

THE MERRY WHISTLER.

A merry little whistler goes by my door
Each day,
He whistles at his work, and he whistles
At his play.

He whistles when he's merry,
He whistles when he's sad,
He whistles when the weather's fine,
He whistles when it's bad.

Of all the little children,
Who daily pass my door,
There's none that seems so happy,
Or gives me pleasure more.

Than the merry little whistler,
Who charms my ears away,
I almost wish I could learn to whistle
And be gay.

—Sent in by Walter Phillips.

UNCLE JED'S TALK TO WIDE-AWAKES.

During the long vacation the boys and girls of the Wide-Awake Circle have probably had new experiences of many kinds. How many have a snake or snakes? and having seen one or more, how many set out to kill it and how many screamed and ran away?

Snakes as a rule haven't many friends, yet they are in many cases great benefactors to mankind. There are in this country all different kinds of snakes, some of which are poisonous. That means that over five-tenths of the snakes are harmless and there are many of them that are handsome and render a highly valuable service from their destruction of mice and insects.

Have you ever seen a snake eating? It is amusing to watch it swallow a rather large mouse. Snakes in fact are the only creatures that can swallow objects larger than themselves. It is possible because the body wall of the snake is elastic and there is a hinge between the jaws, which allows them to spread widely. In addition to that when it comes to swallowing objects bigger than itself the lower jaw parts in the middle and spreads sideways.

If the beauty of the snake in many instances could be imparted to other things it would get much more attention. The reputation of the bad snakes is enough to make most people keep at a distance from them even when they are harmless. Did you ever notice what a long back-bone a snake has? Some of them have as many as 200 vertebrae. While so many of them are not dangerous it is impossible that many will ever desire them for pets. Those that are continually darting their tongue out, even though it is only acting as a feeler to get acquainted with surroundings do not encourage very close relationship. Snakes even though harmless do not make a very strong appeal as pets, and it is well since by keeping a safe distance from them all no chances are taken of getting bit by the poisonous ones, though they may not be numerous. It is best to let them serve their purpose without young people trying to become friends.

How We Came to Eat Pork.
Dear Uncle Jed: In China the houses are made of hay and straw. The Chinese people cannot move if they want a new home. The houses in which they are living have been built down.

A Chinese lady wanted a new home, so she set her house on fire. There are a lot of holes and pigs in China, and there was a pig in the Chinese lady's house. The house burned down to the ground and the Chinese children were in the ruined house when they smelled something, so they hunted around to see if they could find it.

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When they told them to taste it they did so, and between them they ate the pig up, and from that day to this everybody eats pork.

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Dorothea Dix.
Dear Uncle Jed: Dorothea Dix was born April 4, 1802, at Hampden, Maine. She was called the most useful and distinguished woman that America had ever produced. She wished to attend school, but there was little chance for her to study.

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A Trip to Saunderson.
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